

Eastern Irrigation District
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July 3, 2009

Please note the following deadlines:

Irrigation
Development
Applications:

October 9, '09

Scholarship
Applications:

September 30, '09

Inside this issue:

Irrigation 3
Development
Applications

Internet 3

EID 4
Scholarship
Program

Water Supply Outlook

The winter snowpack was a little below average but melted quite slowly. Rainfall in May and June has been very low in the mountains resulting in below average runoff to July 1st. As of July 1st:

- TransAlta's reservoirs are below average;
- Bow River Irrigation District reservoirs are above average, near full;
- our reservoirs are all full.

The irrigation demand to date has been higher than the last 6 years, but not extreme. On average, farmers have used 6" per acre.

Projecting ahead for the next 2 months, with below average precipitation both here and in the mountains, we feel we will be able to meet the irrigation demand. However, we will have to be careful to not waste water.

One of the key ways to prevent wasting of water is to communicate with the Water District Supervisor (Ditch Rider); ie. ordering water at least 24 hours in advance and providing 24 hours notice of your plan to stop irrigating.

If a landowner takes water without ordering in advance he is charged with 2 additional days of water use. If it is in an area where this shorts other farmers, his gate will be locked.

If a landowner shuts off with little notice he is charged with the water until the canal can be adjusted to accommodate his shutoff (12-24 hours).

If a landowner shuts off without any notice he is charged until the Ditch Rider notices and adjusts the water. This could be 2 or 3 days.

The District's water supply demand is based on supplying 18" - 20" per acre on average. Our rule of a maximum of 24" allows some parcels to go up to 33% over average knowing that the majority of parcels will be under the 18". **At this time, it is the District's intent to enforce the 24" per acre maximum on any irrigable unit (parcel).** If a farmer wishes to go above 24" on any parcel this will only be allowed if he limits his water use to 18" on his entire farm.

Example:

Farmer X has 4 parcels:

- Parcel (1) 130 acre pivot (wheat)
- Parcel (2) 130 acre pivot (canola)
- Parcel (3) 140 acre flood (alfalfa)
- Parcel (4) 60 acre flood (irr. pasture)

Total 480 acres

If Farmer X feels he needs more than 24" on parcel (4), he will be allowed only if his total water use is below 18" per acre (720 acre feet). This could be done as follows:

- Parcel (1) takes 12" (130 acre feet)
- Parcel (2) takes 16" (173 acre feet)
- Parcel (3) takes 18" (210 acre feet)
- Parcel (4) takes 30" (200 acre feet)

Total 713 acre feet

As of June 28th, the average delivery was 6" per acre, however a few farmers are nearing or at the 24" maximum, and a few more (1.4% of parcels) are over 18", and a further 4% of parcels are over 12". If you feel you have used quite a bit of water, get a hold of your Ditch Rider or Superintendent and they will tell you where you are at.

- **A 1000 gal/minute pivot (2.25 cfs) uses 4.5 acre feet/day; therefore if you have 130 acres it takes 43 days to use 18" and 58 days to use 24".**



- **A flood field taking 6 cfs uses 12 acre feet/day; therefore on 140 acres you have 17 days for 18" and 23 days for 24". However, if you take 10cfs you are using 20 acre feet/day and only have 14 days to use 24".**



Irrigation Development Applications

Over the past five years on-farm conversions to a more efficient method of irrigation have saved more water than the increase in assessment, therefore **the District will accept applications to irrigate additional land in areas without reservoir support**, as well as those below Lake Newell and Crawling Valley.

Applications must be received by October 9, 2009 to be considered in this special review.

All successful applications must pass the District's Irrigation Development Criteria, where higher scores are given to the following:

- Irrigable units (parcels) with existing irrigation requiring less than 50 acres of new irrigation (intensification);
- good soils;
- efficient delivery to the parcel and an efficient method of irrigation.

*Applications
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received
by*

*October 9,
2009.*

Capital Asset charges for acres added through efficiency gains and intensification (less than 50 acres per irrigable unit where there is existing irrigation) will be \$300/acre.

Capital Asset charges for new parcels or parcels receiving more than 50 additional acres will be \$700/acre.

EIDNet Internet - Lower Rates - Faster Speeds

EIDNet announces **lower** monthly rates, **lower** installation fees and **faster** account speeds for all of its customers!

A standard Water User 400 kbps account is now only \$20/month (was \$25). If you have this type of account, the reduction will automatically be applied to your account effective July 1, 2009. The Water User 1000 kbps (1Mb) account is now only \$30/month (was \$40).

We're upgrading the entire network so that EIDNet customers everywhere within the EID can enjoy faster response times. If you would like to use streaming video (on-line auctions, movies, etc.), internet telephone services or participate in on-line education courses, the faster accounts are suited to you.

Faster accounts, with speeds up to 1.5 Mb, are available in the **Scandia, Rainier, Bow City, Cassils, One Tree, Tilley, Bantry** and **North Gem** areas. If you're in any of these areas and are interested in a faster account, or would just like to discuss what we have available, please call us. We'll be offering the faster accounts in the **Rosemary** and **Patricia** areas in July and August and in the **Brooks** area during August and September. More network upgrades will be completed during the fall. Please watch for further announcements.

EIDNet provides internet service in most areas of the EID. Please call us at (403) 362-1401.



*“The District
will be
continuing
with the
Scholarship
Program for
2009”*



EID Scholarship Program

The Eastern Irrigation District will be continuing with the Scholarship Program for 2009. The District plans to give out up to 20 scholarships annually.

- 10 of the scholarships will be given out to students whose parents are 1st water users, or employees of the EID.
- 10 of the scholarships will be given out to students who reside within the EID.

Eligible applicants must:

- be entering their 3rd, 4th or 5th year of post-secondary education at a recognized North American university or technical school; or
- be entering their 2nd, 3rd or 4th year of a certified trade school;
- NOT have been a previous recipient;

- complete an application form (available to download from www.eid.ab.ca under the Policies tab), or from our District Office;
- provide marks from previous years of post-secondary education;
- provide three signed reference letters, at least one being an educator, and at least one being a previous employer;
- provide an outline of the applicant's education and career objectives.

All career fields are eligible.

Scholarships awarded to students in post-secondary education at a university or technical school will be \$2,000.

Scholarships awarded to students in a certified trade will be \$1,000.

*Application deadline is
September 30, 2009.*

Applications may be sent to:

Eastern Irrigation District
P.O. Bag 8
Brooks, AB
T1R 1B2

You may also contact us at:

Email eid@eid.ab.ca
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